

Department of Energy:

I attended the hearing in Holyoke on the Manomet study and after listening to audience input, I feel there are some major flaws with this study. It is very doubtful that biomass can be defined as renewable and/or clean. The air quality in the Pioneer Valley is already compromised from pollutants from fossil fuels and anything that contributes to greenhouse gases is counterproductive to global warming. The reduction of forests is also counterproductive to the reduction of carbon, and as a supply source for biomass (in any form), it is definitely finite. A great deal of the science proffered in the report is hypothetical, which means time frames for renew-ability and carbon reduction is conjecture. That worries me.

Please direct the state to other clean energy sources such as wind, geothermal and solar projects. Harnessing methane gases from landfills is an excellent source of energy that also protects the ozone.

Quality of the life is of paramount importance to the citizens of Massachusetts and we have a right to clean air. Massachusetts is in the forefront looking for ways to reduce carbon and find energy sources that don't depend on fossil fuel. It's also a leader in many human rights issues. Let the resolve to find renewable energy sources be balanced with the impact it has on our health.

Thank you for asking the public for their input. I do hope, however, that the state has not already decided to allow more biomass facilities to be built and is simply asking citizen input to help regulate it.

Respectfully, Linda McPartlan